तत्पश्चात्, उग्रवादियों ने भाग रहे लोगों पर लगभग 20 मिनट तक अंधाधुंध गोली चलाई। उपलब्ध रिपोर्टों से संकेत मिलता है कि 35 गैर बोड़ो अल्पसंख्यक मारे गए तथा 60 जख्मी हुए। तीन बोड़ो उग्रवादियों के मारे जाने की भी खबर है। राज्य सरकार से कहा गया है कि वह सेना, अर्द्ध-सैनिक बलों, राज्य पुलिस तथा केन्द्रीय और राज्य आसूचना एजेंसियों से पूरा सहयोग करके बोड़ो सिक्यूरिटी फोर्स के खिलाफ सतत अभियान चलाए। राज्य सरकार से यह भी कहा गया है कि सभी पीड़ित व्यक्तियों को पर्याप्त राहत प्रदान की जाए। स्थिति की बराबर मानिटरिंग की जा रही है।

**Practice of Bhoomi Pujas**

2942. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bhoomi pujas have not become a common feature of official functions held in connection with the inauguration of construction activities;

(b) whether such bhoomi pujas are not in conflict with the secular character of the State; and

(c) whether Government would be agreeable to issue instructions prohibiting the practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) In November, 1986 Government decided that there would be no religious ceremonies of any sort at Government functions. This decision was made known to all concerned. Also, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were requested to issue suitable instructions accordingly.

**Amendment in Criminal Procedure Code**

2943. SHRIMATI YJAYANTIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the increased incidents of kidnappings for ransom and atrocities on innocent dalit women all over the country, whether Government will bring forward suitable amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code to make them cognisable offences and not to release the offenders on bailable bonds;

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to bring forward the amendments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Kidnapping for ransom etc. is already a cognizable and non-bailable offence under section 364A of the Indian Penal Code. Necessary provisions have been made in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (No. 33 of 1989) to protect the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women from commission of atrocities against them. Most of the offences under the Act are cognizable and non-bailable. Section 18 of the Act provides that the provisions of section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 shall not apply to persons accused of having committed an offence under the Act. Hence such persons cannot be granted anticipatory bail.

**Assistance to Victim of Bomb Blasts**

2944. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write-up in the 'Pioneer' of 23rd July, 1994 regarding the plight of Shri Mahender Sharma, as teacher in Poonch, who has suffered painful physical injuries in trying to save the students from a bomb thrown by the terrorists;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government uptil now has not given any help or assistance to this young man and his family; and